



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Convicted of Murdering Handyman in 2008 Silver Lake Shooting

A 37-year-old man has been convicted of murder 11 years after he shot a handyman in Silver Lake and cut off the victim's hand before fleeing to Mexico, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

A jury found Alan Machain (dob 6/18/82), formerly of Lynwood, guilty yesterday of one count of first-degree murder and found true an allegation that he personally used a handgun, causing injury or death. The jury deliberated for about three hours over two days.

Sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 19 in Department 104 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. Machain faces up to 50 years to life in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Brian Rosenberg and Head Deputy District Attorney Gregory Jennings prosecuted case BA348847.

In October 2008, victim Cesar Valenzuela, 44, of South Gate, was hired to do maintenance and repairs by the owner of a triplex in Silver Lake. Machain, whose brother was an employee of the property owner, had been given permission to occasionally stay in an unoccupied residential unit there, according to court testimony.

On Oct. 8, 2008, Machain shot Valenzuela at least three times and cut off his left hand inside of the home.

The victim's body was discovered on Oct. 13 in a bathroom. His hand was never found.

When police sought the defendant as a person of interest, he fled the area on Oct. 14 before they were able to contact him.

Investigators later obtained video surveillance of Machain driving the victim's truck, according to court testimony. His EBT transactions also stopped the day after the victim's body was discovered.

The defendant remained in hiding until he was arrested in Tijuana on June 21, 2017, and was returned to the United States.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, Northeast Division Homicide.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.